City of Lafayette
Staff Report
City Council

Meeting Date: **April 14, 2025**

Staff: **Patrick Golier, Transportation Program Manager**

Subject: **City of Lafayette Letter of Support for Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) Grant Application**

The Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) has requested that the City of Lafayette provide a letter, signed by Mayor Candell, in support of a grant application as part of a competitive statewide grant program through the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) that would fund broadband infrastructure projects across the state, including for "last mile" connectivity improvements.

Background

In July 2021, the CPUC established a Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) grant program in accordance with Senate Bill 156. This program allocated $50 million for planning work that would facilitate high-speed broadband infrastructure projects. The Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) submitted a successful grant application and was awarded funding to prepare a Broadband Strategic Plan. This plan was initiated in July 2023 and has been recently completed. This will be followed by broadband design details and specifications.

The purpose of this project is to facilitate high-speed broadband service expansion to provide a minimum 100 Mbps upload and download speeds to unserved and underserved households and businesses throughout Contra Costa County. CCTA will explore leveraging existing and planned fiber infrastructure to facilitate broadband expansion. The Broadband Strategic Plan establishes an implementation roadmap that informs low-level network design for prioritized areas of the County.

Today, CCTA seeks funding from the Federal Funding Account, administered by the CPUC, a $2 billion grant program would fund last-mile broadband infrastructure projects to connect unserved Californians in accordance with SB 156. The proposed fiber expansion will build upon the strategic blueprint set forth in the Countywide Broadband Strategic Plan, aligning with statewide guidance from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and meeting the need for high-speed, reliable internet connections.

In order to meet the grant application deadline, the CCTA has requested that the signed letter be returned the week of April 14, 2025.

Recommendation

1. Authorize Staff to provide the Contra Costa Transportation Authority with a signed letter from the City of Lafayette in support of a CPUC Last-Mile Grant Program grant application.

Attachments

A. Draft City of Lafayette Letter of Support

ATTACHMENT A

Draft Letter of Support

City Council

Susan Candell, Mayor
Carl Anduri, Vice Mayor
Jim Cervantes, Council Member
Gina Dawson, Council Member
John McCormick, Council Member

April 14, 2025

Dear California Public Utilities Commissioners,

The City of Lafayette supports the Contra Costa Transportation Authority's (CCTA) application for the Last-Mile Federal Funding Account (FFA) grant. As Contra Costa County's designated Congestion Management Agency, CCTA is uniquely equipped to leverage its existing and planned fiber optic infrastructure – initially designed to improve traffic signal coordination, integrated corridor management, and transit signal priority – to expand broadband access in unserved or underserved communities. By installing higher-capacity fiber optic cables than transportation needs alone require, CCTA can cost-effectively provide the essential "digital on-ramps" so many of our residents and businesses desperately need.

The proposed fiber expansion will build upon the strategic blueprint set forth in CCTA's Countywide Broadband Strategic Plan, aligning with statewide guidance from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and meeting the crucial need for high-speed, reliable internet connections. In our County, the digital divide remains a formidable obstacle to economic growth, public safety, and education. Gaps in broadband access hinder students from completing homework and online learning, slow down local businesses, and delay first responders during emergencies. Ensuring universal access to broadband is not a luxury but a necessity – one that fosters equal opportunities, drives innovation, and contributes to community well-being.

CCTA will demonstrate leadership in coordinating with local governments, utilities, and private Internet Service Providers (ISP) to share conduit, reduce construction costs, and streamline deployment. Their commitment to equitable broadband access is clear, and their capacity to oversee this countywide effort is unrivaled. Awarding the Last-Mile FFA grant to CCTA will enable faster, broader, and more efficient fiber rollouts, granting Lafayette and the entire County the connectivity needed to thrive in the digital age.

The Lafayette City Council respectfully urges the CPUC to approve CCTA's application. By doing so, you will affirm our collective commitment to ensuring that all residents have access to high-speed, affordable internet and can participate fully in education, commerce, healthcare, and public services. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Candell
Mayor, City of Lafayette

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